

Message Text

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72

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTe-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-02 /026 W

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P R 202035Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WSHDC PRIORITY 9584

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 429

LIMA FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, AR

SUBJ: CIVAIR: PANAM SCHEDULES; CHANGES IN CIVIAL AIR OFFICIALS

REF: BA 0129

1. SINCE REFTTEL, PERSONNEL DISCHARGED FROM DIRECCION NACIONAL DE TRANSPORTE AEREO COMERCIAL (DNTAC) HAVE NOT BEEN REPLACED. HOWEVER RETIRED ARGENTINE AIR FORCE LT. COL. ROBERTO MARTORANO WAS NAMED PRESIDENT OF AEROLINEAS, REPLACING GENERAL (RET) GUASCO, AND TOOK OFFICE JAN 16. ON TEMPORARY BASIS HE WILL ALSO ACT AS GENERAL MANGER, POST FORMERLY HELD BY JUAN CARLOS PELLEGRINI. MARTORANO, WHO HAD BEEN PRESIDENT OF AEROLINEAS FROM JUNE TO DEC 1973 IS NOT IN THE VIEW OF CARRERS LIKELY TO BRING SPECIAL ABILITY AND IMAGINATION TO THE JOB.

2. PANAM DURING PAST TWO WEEKS HAS FOLLOWED THROUGH UNDER ARGENTINE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW WITH APPEAL TO HIGHER AUTHORITY AGAINST DNTAC DECISION, IN THIS CASE THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORT LEVEL, IMMEDIATELY UNDER ECON MIN GOMEZ MORALES. EMBAASSY MEANWHILE HAS FOUND THAT GOMEZ MORALES APPARENTLY DID NOT TAKE ANY STEPS TOWARD A RESOLUTION OF PANAM'S PROBLEM BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT WITH HIM ON DEC 27 AND THE MINISTERS DEPARTURE FOR THE US ON JAN 10.

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3. IN EFFORT TO KEEP THINGS MOVING, ECON COUNS SAW TRANSPORT UNDERSECRETARY CERRAJERIA ON JAN 16 TO INQUIRE ABOUT CHANGES IN DNTAC OFFICIALS AS THEY MIGHT AFFECT PANAMS SCHEDULING PROBLEM AND TO REMIND HIM HE HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD US THAT GIVEN SOME TIME APPROVAL OF THE SHIFT OF CHANGE OF GUAGE POINT TO CARACAS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

4. AS IN DEC 9 CONVERSATION CERRAJERIA GAVE EVERY EVIDENCE OF DESIRING TO ACCOMMODATE PANAM AND IN GENERAL TO PUT US/ ARGENTINE CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT RELATIONS ON A BETTER FOOTING. HE SAID IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THINGS HAD MOVED SO SLOWLY. IN PART THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS WERE TO BLAME. MAIN PROBLEM HOWEVER WAS THAT NOTHING COULD REALLY BE ACHIEVED ON PANAM SCHEDULES OR ON BROAD ASPECT OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS UNTIL THE OLD TEAM OF OFFICIALS, WITH THEIR PECULIAR VIEWPOINTS, HAD LEFT DNTAC. BRIGADIER NEME, HE SAID WAS STILL THERE AS DIRECTOR, BUT WOULD BE LEAVING "WITHIN A FEW DAYS".

5. THE USG AND EMBASSY, CERRAJERIA SAID WITH THE COMPLETE TURNOVER OF DNTAC PERSONNEL, WOULD SOON BE OBSERVING A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE OF OUTLOOK IN GOA CIVIAL AIR POLICIES. HE AND OTHERS ABOVE HIM IN GOA, WHILE REMAING FULLY AWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO DEFEND ARGENTINAS COMMERCIAL AND POLICY INTERESTS, WERE DISSATISFIED WITH RECENT CIVIL AIR POLICIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. NOT ONLY IN DISCUSSIONS WITH US REPS, BUT ALSO WITH THOSE OF OTHER STATES, IT HAD BECOME CLEAR SOMETHING WAS WRONG. WITHIN A FEW DAYS, CERRAJERIA SIAD, EMBASSY WOULD BE RECEIVING A REPLY TO ITS NOTE OF DEC 10 TO THE FONMIN WHICH HE BELIEVED WE WOULD FIND SATISFACTORY. HE ALSO HOPED THE USG WOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE TO MAKE A BEGINNING SOON ON RENEWED BILATERAL TALKS, PERHAPS AROUND MID-FEBRUARY, BY WHICH TIME THE NEW DNTAC TEAM SHOULD BE IN OFFICE. MEANWHILE HE ASKED THAT THE USG BE PATIENT FOR ASHORT TIME LONGER ON THE PANAM SCHEDULING PROBLEM.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY DOES NOT FIND IT ALTOGETHER EASY TO ACCDPT THE ABOVE AT FACE VALUE. NEVERTHELESS, IF NEME IS DISLODGED FROM THE DNTAC IN ADDITION TO WITTE AND THE OTHERS WHO HAVE ALREADY LEFT, WE MAY INDEED HAVE A MUCH BETTER SITUATION FOR FUTURE TALKS, ESPECIALLY IF CERRAJERIA MAINTAINS CONFIDENTIAL

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AUTHORITY OVER THE NEW TEAM.

7. CERRAJERIA ASKS FOR PATIENCE, BUT PANAM REP INFORMS US CARRIER IS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER COST AND BAD CUSTOMER RELATIONS OF LANDING PASSENGERS IN MONTEVIDEO ON THE PROBLEM FLIGHT (515/516) AND FERRYING THEM TO BA. FURTHERMORE, PANAM REP SAYS THEY ARE ENCOUNTERING INCREASING RESISTANCE FROM URUGUAYAN CIVAIR OFFICIALS TO CONTINEU THE ARRANGEMENT, AND

HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT PERMISSION FOR LANDING FLIGHT THERE MAY NOT BE GIVEN AFTER JAN 27. WE PLAN TO MAKE FURTHER APPROACH TO CERRAJERIA OR AT HIGHER LEVEL IF THERE ARE NO FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS BY JAN 23.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY HAS NO IDEA (NOR HAS PANAM REP, ACCORDING TO HIM) WHAT PANAM HEADQUARTERS PLANS MAY BE FOR SCHEDULING TO BA OVER THE NEXT MONTHS. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS, IF DEPT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE, THAT DEPT SUGGEST TO PANAM PRUDENCE OF NOT PROPOSING ANY CHANGES IN SCHEDULING OR ROUTING DURING THIS PERIOD WHICH MIGHT CREATE NEW PROBLEMS, AT LEAST UNTIL THERE IS CHANCE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO GOA ATTITUDES AS A RESULT OF CHANGES IN DNTAC.

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